

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 /055 W
----- 087804

R 151952Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9893

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

USDAO ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 11179

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MASS, OCLR, XA, FR

SUBJECT: USN SHIP REFUELING AT DJIBOUTI, FTAI, AND
ASSAB, ETHIOPIA

REF: (A) STATE 052957 (B) PARIS 7101

1. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY SHIP VISIT OFFICER
LEPREVOST IN AMERICAS DIVISION GAVE EMBOFF APRIL 14
STATUS REPORT ON GOF REACTION TO DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN
WHICH EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED BLANKET PERMISSION FOR
U.S. NAVY SHIPS TO REFUEL AT DJIBOUTI WHEN CIRCUM-
STANCES PREVENT SCHEDULED REFUELING AT PORT OF
ASSAB, ETHIOPIA.

2. QUAI HAS RECEIVED REACTIONS FROM FRENCH NAVAL
AUTHORITIES AND FROM STATE SECRETARIAT FOR
OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WHICH CONTAIN POSITIVE REPLY
TO U.S. REQUEST BUT SET CERTAIN CONDITIONS.
ACCORDING LEPREVOST, FRENCH NAVAL AUTHORITIES
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SIMPLY REQUIRE THAT DJIBOUTI NAVAL COMMAND BE IN-

FORMED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF U.S. NAVY REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE. STATE SECRETARIAT FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES REQUIRES THAT EACH SUCH REFUELING STOP BE SUBJECT OF CABLED REQUEST TO HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (DJIBOUTI) AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE DESIRED VISIT; HIGH COMMISSIONER MIGHT APPROVE VISIT OR, IF PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE, DENY OR POSTPONE VISIT.

3. LEPREVOST SAID THAT IN REPLY TO OUR NOTE PER REF B, HE IS NOW DRAFTING NOTE WHICH WILL SAY GOF AGREES TO OUR REQUEST ON CONDITION U.S. NAVY FULFILL TWO REQUIREMENTS MENTIONED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED AND COMMENT: SINCE THIS REPLY IS NOT EXACTLY WHAT WE HAD ASKED FOR, REQUEST EARLY REACTIONS IN CASE ADDRESSEES FEEL EMBASSY SHOULD RAISE OBJECTIONS URGENTLY. WE TEND TO DOUBT THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET STATE SECRETARIAT FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES TO DROP ITS REQUIREMENT ALTOGETHER. LEPREVOST POINTED OUT THAT SITUATION AT DJIBOUTI IS POTENTIALLY JUST AS DIFFICULT AS AT ASSAB, SO THAT HIGH COMMISSION MUST RETAIN OPTION TO DENY OR POSTPONE U.S. NAVY VISITS.
GAMMON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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